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DATE: SEP 1999

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5c WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF [redacted].

ITEMS MARKED & HAVE BEEN COORDINATED [redacted]

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&1. //CHILE: TRIALS FOR HIGH-RANKING ALLENDE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND OTHER PROMINENT LEFTIST PRISONERS IN CHILE ARE NOT IMMINENT. THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET DECIDED HOW IT WILL DEAL WITH ITS MOST IMPORTANT PRISONERS AND APPARENTLY IS IN NO GREAT HURRY TO MAKE THIS DETERMINATION.//

//THE CHIEF OF THE GOVERNMENT'S OFFICE OF DETAINEE AFFAIRS HAS SAID THAT JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS WERE BEING INITIATED AGAINST INMATES OF THE DAWSON ISLAND PRISON CAMP. INTERIOR MINISTER BONILLA HAS CLARIFIED THIS STATEMENT, SAYING THAT LOWER LEVEL DETAINEES RATHER THAN COMMUNIST PARTY CHIEF CORVALAN AND FORMER POPULAR UNITY CABINET MINISTERS WERE INVOLVED.//

//IN ANY CASE, UNDER CHILEAN LAW THE JUDICIAL "PROCESS" REFERS TO THE WHOLE SERIES OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS THAT EVENTUALLY CULMINATES IN THE TRIAL, NOT JUST TO THE TRIAL ITSELF.//

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//THE GOVERNMENT SAYS THAT IT IS STILL INVESTIGATING THE CASES OF LEFTIST LUMINARIES IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHAT, IF ANY, CHARGES WILL BE BROUGHT AGAINST THEM. THE REGIME DOES NOT YET APPEAR TO HAVE DEFINITIVELY RESOLVED IMPORTANT JURISDICTIONAL AND PROCEDURAL ISSUES.//

//A KEY QUESTION IS WHICH TRIBUNALS, CIVILIAN OR MILITARY, WILL HAVE JURISDICTION OVER CRIMES COMMITTED PRIOR TO THE COUP.//

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